(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Poverty Commission at par with Administrative Reforms Commission so that poverty could be fought tooth and nail and poverty ratio could be less than 10 per cent of the Indian population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years using the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of poor. The latest estimates on number of poor are available for the year 2004-05, estimated from NSS 61st around consumer expenditure data. The number of poor in 2004-05 is estimated as 301.7 million using URP consumption distribution (Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-days recall period) and 238.5 million using MRP consumption distribution (Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365 day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-days recall period).

The estimates of poverty in other country are not comparable with that of India due to difference in methodology adopted and data used.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at the moment.

Benefits of growth to citizens

4667. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the benefits of growth are not reaching all the citizens;

(b) whether according to Report of National Sample Survey Organization, 25 crore citizens in the country subsist at Rs. 12 per day only;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for increasing sufficient avenues of employment for citizens both in rural and urban areas, State-wise; and

(d) whether there is any provision for increasing the employment allowance in respect of seniour citizens also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The annual average growth rate of economy measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 1999-2000 prices during the year 1999-2000 to 2004-05 was 6.0 per cent. The percentage of poor in 2004-05 is 21.8% comparable with the poverty estimate of 1999-2000, which was 26.1 percent. It shows that the benefits of growth are reaching to the citizens as poverty has reduced over the years.

(b) Based on the percentage of rural and urban pupulation below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE), given in the Report No. 508(61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13% of the rural pupulation and 7.13% of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12.00 per day. It implies that 22.76 crore people in rural areas and 2.24 crore people in urban areas, totaling 25 crore people in the country spend less than Rs. 12 per day.

(c) Government of India implements various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of these are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana; Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; Rural Employment Generation Programme and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana.

The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 according to which State Government shall provide 100 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household in the rural areas whose adult members volunteer to do such work. In order to make the programme result-oriented, it has been proposed that the scheme should be implemented in phases. Accordingly in the first phase, the proposed Legislation has been implemented in 200 Districts which has now been extended to 113 more districts.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan provides an opportunity to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and

inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan mentions creation of 70 million new work opportunities during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007—12).

(d) No, Sir. There is no such provision at the moment.

Menace of unemployment problem

4668. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased rate of growth and economic development has no corresponding increase of jobs in the country;

(b) if so, further steps to be taken by Government to contain the menace of unemployment problem; and

(c) the rate of increase of employment since the launching of NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, growth rate in employment has been estimated at 2.56% per annum during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been estimated at 5.99% per annum during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 by CSO.

(b) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million work opportunities, both in rural and urban areas. Additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive sectors, such as food processing, leather products, footwear, textiles, tourism and construction, etc.

(c) The employment situation is assessed through quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on employment and unemployment. The latest quinquennial round of NSSO for which results are available is 61st round conducted during July 2004 to June 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched on 2nd